

# VERSATILE VERSES

George A. Nelson



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# VERSATILE VERSES







Yours Always,  
George A. Wilson  




GEORGE ALBERT WILSON

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# VERSATILE VERSES

. . . . . “ For all men, indeed,  
Who in some choice edition may graciously read,  
With fair illustration, and erudite note,  
The song which the poet in bitterness wrote,  
Beat the poet, and notably beat him, in this—  
The joy of the genius is theirs, whilst they miss  
The grief of the man.” . . . . .

—*Owen Meredith.*

NYACK-ON-HUDSON  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

1894

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1894.

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To M. I. B.

---

This little book I dedicate to thee,  
With love as deep as e'er was sounding sea.  
'T is not a paltry gift I 'queath, and yet  
It leaves unpaid the whole of Friendship's  
debt!

To thee this scrip of stumbling verse, the  
whole

I dedicate, and on my heart's flesh-scroll  
These words I write: "Behold the marv'lous  
pow'r

Of Friendship, gift of God—His priceless  
dow'r!"



## Salutatory.

---

So many minds of great, undoubted worth  
Have trod the path that leads to heav'n  
from earth,

I fain my hand would hold :  
So many men of genius, rich and rare,  
Have reached Olympia—seen the glories  
there—

To emulate were bold.

So many think the gift the gods bestow—  
A patch of sunshine in dark meads below—  
Is theirs—illusion vain!—

That those to whom ambrosial joys are  
known

Communion with the gods are loth to own,  
Lest they the guild profane.

So halting is my verse, and inchoate  
The talent I devote to mission, great,  
I blush to own my Muse:

So slender seems the thread that to me  
binds

Its words of passion, modesty reminds  
Me I may but abuse.

So meagre is my ken of poets' ways—  
Their strained effects that meet a wond'ring  
praise,

Their strict exclusiveness—  
I fear my plebeian pen may shame reflect  
On noble gods' and Nature's own elect  
With its effusiveness.

My stilted style, at times, may mirth evoke  
From those who lighter things invoke  
To satiate their minds ;  
And sentiments I write in meek duress  
To thoughts that banish happiness  
Had better woo the winds.

Some verses, penned ere youth's enthrall  
was o'er,

May pity for my Muse inspire—no more :  
Yet such I 'd not disclaim !  
Who walks erect ere gone are creep-taught  
days :  
Who lubricates the ear of king with praise—  
Except thro' falls and shame ?

And if, perchance, too oft my thoughts  
recur  
To subjects other than those men prefer—  
To gloomy things, and sad—  
The pardon of the reader I implore :  
Far from me be it thus to probe the sore  
Of years, or sorrow add.

If, then, with trembling heart, 'twixt hope  
and fear,  
From haven, mine, to critic wastes, and  
drear,  
This little tome I send,

Condone the anxious fear—forgive the hope  
That may my eye, of single purpose, ope  
To truth: firm foe—fast friend!

THE AUTHOR.

NYACK-ON-HUDSON,  
OCTOBER 1, 1894.

Born Pennington, N. J., 1874.



## Table of Contents.

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	PAGE.
THE AUTHOR . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
To M. I. B. . . . .	vii
Salutatory . . . . .	ix

### POEMS OF PATRIOTISM.

Decoration Day . . . . .	19
Memorial Blossoms . . . . .	20
A Memorial Aftermath . . . . .	24
Heroes Yet . . . . .	27
Independence Day . . . . .	31
Shall We Give Up the Flags ? . . . .	36
My Country . . . . .	38

### CARDIAC CONCEPTS.

Dreamland . . . . .	43
Thanksgiving Violets . . . . .	45
I "Saw" My Loved One Home . . . .	47
Her Photograph . . . . .	49
Largesse and Dying Embers . . . . .	50
I Dreamed My Love Was Dead . . . .	51
Unrequited Love . . . . .	53
A Valentine . . . . .	57
Birthday Greeting—To M. I. B. . . .	58
In Golden Fetters . . . . .	60
Heart's Content . . . . .	62
No Future But Thee . . . . .	64
Just Sixteen Years Ago To-Day . . . .	66
Forget-Me-Not . . . . .	68
A Valentine—To A. L. D. . . . .	69
The Old Love's Claim . . . . .	71
My Love and I . . . . .	73

Brighter Than the Stars	-	-	-	75
Four Years Ago	-	-	-	76
I Cannot Sin	-	-	-	78
Just As Thou Art!	-	-	-	79
Enchanted Ground	-	-	-	80
A Letter	-	-	-	82
My Queen	-	-	-	84

#### SPIRITUAL SELECTIONS.

During a Snow-Storm	-	-	-	91
The Quiet Hour	-	-	-	92
Retribution	-	-	-	95
New Year Resolutions	-	-	-	97
A Negative Thanksgiving	-	-	-	99
A Prodigal's Return	-	-	-	101
My Evening Prayer	-	-	-	102
Easter	-	-	-	105
"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"	-	-	-	107
A Soliloquy	-	-	-	110
An Easter Anthem	-	-	-	112

#### MEMORIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mrs. Harrison	-	-	-	117
James Gillespie Blaine	-	-	-	119
Gen. John A. Logan	-	-	-	121
Lord Alfred Tennyson	-	-	-	123
Edward Everett Hale	-	-	-	124
Ella Wheeler Wilcox	-	-	-	125

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A Pneumatological Query	-	-	-	129
Christmas	-	-	-	131
"'92 and '93"	-	-	-	133
The Poet's Make-up	-	-	-	134
Destiny	-	-	-	135

Unreality	-	-	-	-	-	-	136
Waiting	-	-	-	-	-	-	137
Thought	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
To a Little Child	-	-	-	-	-	-	141
Beyond the Tears	-	-	-	-	-	-	142
Thrice Happy He	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
A Query	-	-	-	-	-	-	145
While on the Hook Mountain	-	-	-	-	-	-	146
Thanksgiving	-	-	-	-	-	-	148
A Hallowe'en Recipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Spring Apostrophizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	152
The Drum	-	-	-	-	-	-	154
The Judge's Decision	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
That Quizzing Blizzard	-	-	-	-	-	-	158
Ineffectual Genius	-	-	-	-	-	-	160
The Press	-	-	-	-	-	-	162
Despair	-	-	-	-	-	-	164
The Italian Match Boy	-	-	-	-	-	-	166
Quatrains	-	-	-	-	-	-	168
Athens' Defection	-	-	-	-	-	-	169
A Retrospect	-	-	-	-	-	-	171
Romping Rhyme	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Summer Days Are On the Wane	-	-	-	-	-	-	175
When Old Age Comes On	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
"E'en Tho' It Be a Cross"	-	-	-	-	-	-	180
L'Envoi	-	-	-	-	-	-	183



# Poems of Patriotism



## Decoration Day.

---

The day has come when hearts must bend  
In grim, yet glorious, grief :  
When to Death's city, white, we send  
Our tributes. On a leaf  
Of Time's volum'nous scroll we grave,  
In letters blurred with tears,  
The names of those—the gallant brave—  
Who knew no puling fears.  
We deck with Nature's treasures mounds  
'Neath which our soldiers sleep :  
No reveille for them resounds  
Again.

The shadows creep  
Athwart the sky. The day is past :  
Those dreaming 'neath the sod  
Ne'er more shall war in blue cuirassed—  
Our heroes live with God !

## Memorial Blossoms.

---

Read at the exercises of Waldron Post, S2, G. A. R.,  
Nyack-on-Hudson, Memorial Day, 1892, by Miss Fannie  
Blauvelt.

What mem'ries cluster 'round the day,  
To loyal hearts, and true,  
That tells of Blue against the Gray,  
And Gray against the Blue.  
It speaks of fields of carnage where  
The battle-smoke hung low :  
And shrieks of anguish rent the air  
From many a sick'ning blow ;  
When foemen, won from brotherhood  
By insurrection's cry,  
Stood firm, or fell in welt'red blood,  
Heroic deaths to die ;  
When came the clash of arms, and war  
Seemed all that then remained :  
But when the storm-cloud had passed o'er  
The Union was sustained !  
Sustained ! but at a fearful cost



Of bloodshed and of life :  
The Union, dark and tempest-tost,  
Had felt fell treason's knife !  
Sad memories the day recalls  
Of comrades borne away  
On stretchers from hospital walls—  
To rest till that great day  
When come from out the moss-grown tomb  
The great and good of years,  
To shake off scenes of darkened gloom—  
Exchange for smiles their tears.  
And many comrades gathered 'round  
The campfire's lurid glow,  
And, seated on the parent ground,  
Sang songs in voices, low.  
Their theme was "Home," of loved ones  
there  
Who watched till they returned ;  
And many prayed for sweethearts, fair,  
For whom their whole souls yearned :  
And "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," made

many a heart  
With martial fire to leap,  
While "Annie Laurie" played its part.  
Till all were wrapped in sleep.  
But many a father waited long  
Ere came his soldier boy,  
And many a mother's heart, so strong,  
Was filled with Spartan joy.  
Now, Decoration Day is come  
To keep the past in mind,  
And, 'mid the roll of muffled drum,  
Sweet buds on graves we bind.  
But, as we lay these fragrant flowers  
On many a warrior's mound,  
We bear in mind not only ours  
Are those beneath the ground—  
The Nation for whose flag they fought  
And bled, till stern death came,  
Has, by that act, a title bought :  
A higher, nobler claim !  
A't is now past : all is forgiv'n :

And in the grave of years  
We bury hearts once torn and riv'n,  
And cover all with tears.  
And, as the broken columns move,  
Anon, with falt'ring tread,  
We'll show a Nation's heartfelt love  
For its heroic dead.  
To-day the Blue salutes the Gray,  
And arm in arm they twine :  
Blossoms on Decoration Day  
Are laid at Freedom's shrine.

## A Memorial Aftermath.

---

Winding among the mounds of earth,  
Each with its tale to tell,  
March men, and children hush their mirth,  
While, deep-bass, tolls the bell.

And then the band strikes up a dirge,  
And hearts, that ne'er knew fear,  
Swell up, with an impetuous surge.  
While falls the silent tear.

And then.—But hark : “ Right shoulder  
arms ! ”

Rings out upon the air :  
And vet'rans, feeling long-dead charms,  
Obey, and onward bear.

The sun sends down his piercing rays,  
Bathing in warmth the ground,  
Just as he did in those dark days  
When roared the cannon's sound.

But, of the men who marched ahead,  
In spite of shot and shell,  
Many are camping 'mong the dead—  
Buried right where they fell.

A woman bends beside the tomb  
Of one once dear to her :  
Who tramped away, in youthful bloom,  
A dashing officer.

Then came the news : a rebel shot  
Struck Charlie to the ground !  
That moment's shock she ne'er forgot—  
Unhealing was its wound.

They bore him home and laid his form  
Beneath the sighing trees :  
There now he lies, in rain and storm,  
And in the autumn breeze.

The guns may roar, the cannons crack,  
Beneath the heavens, starr'd :

He 's in the last grand bivouac,  
Inside the old church-yard.

Yes, oft she comes to see her dead,  
The love of by-gone years :  
O'er his dear grave sweet flowers to spread,  
Bedewing all with tears.

There leave her with her long-dead boy,  
Sleeping beneath the sod :  
She buried ev'ry earthly joy  
When he went home to God.

And, as the slow procession twines  
Away 'mid gath'ring gloom,  
She sinks among the tendril vines—  
Tear-wedded to the tomb.

## Heroes Yet.

---

Read at the exercises of Waldron Post, 82, G. A. R.,  
Nyack-on-Hudson, at Oak Hill Cemetery, Memorial Day,  
1894, by Miss Fannie Blauvelt.

Heroes they were in '61,  
And now, in '94,  
A Nation's: "Comrades, thou 'st well done,  
And turned the hand of war—  
With blood a-reek, and broken hearts  
Plethoric in its wake!"—  
A sense of gratitude imparts  
That naught can ever shake.  
The debt we owe our honored dead  
Can never be repaid:  
Priceless the blood of heroes shed  
Who never sheathed the blade!  
How puerile seems our sentiment,  
Compared with that desire  
Nurtured by men, on valor bent,  
Who charged through blood and fire,  
And stormed the hosts that wore the gray,

Nor stopped to think of fear,  
But carried on the Flag of Day—  
The Stars and Stripes—so dear  
To ev'ry heart attuned to love  
Of home, God, native land.  
No love of ours can e'er remove  
Our obligation, grand !  
Full many a field in glist'ning stars  
Beheld bright prototypes :  
For one host waved the rebel Bars—  
The other streamed the Stripes.  
The angels paused their sweeping swell  
Of harmony divine,  
And dwelt upon the raging hell  
Of warriors, 'rayed in line.  
Then God—the God alike of peace  
And unrelenting war—  
Looked down : bade sullen strife surcease,  
And stopped the leaden pour.  
Shall we a Nation's love withhold  
From those who fought as these ?



Far rather let their fame be told  
In ev'ry passing breeze !  
Let ev'ry bird that sings to-day,  
As men pass in review,  
Chirp joyfully, because the Gray  
Is merged into the Blue.  
We garland graves with many a bud  
That Nature deigns to yield  
In love for those who gave their blood  
When Liberty appealed.  
The Nation's emblem vigil keeps  
Over the hero's grave :  
The Nation's heart stands still and weeps—  
For it he died to save !  
Far back, along the centuries' wake,  
One died that all might live  
Who would but on them gladly take  
His yoke—obedience give,  
We have, to-day, exemplars, grand,  
Of that Oblation, true,  
The men who died for flag and land—

Who wore the Union blue.  
We weep, and yet our eyes are dry :  
We mourn, but make no sound :  
The brave who sleep can never die,  
E'en tho' the dampened ground  
Their forms may, in firm embrace, hold :  
A white stone o'er the head :  
They tramp, tramp, tramp the streets of  
gold—

The brave are never dead !  
As comes again Memorial Day,  
And flags and flowers are due,  
We weep for the misguided Gray,  
And for our Boys in Blue.

## Independence Day.

---

Read at the celebration at Nyack-on-Hudson, 1894,  
by the Rev. J. B. Taylor.

“Old Glory” waves its tri-hued folds  
Over the land that ever molds

    The good, the brave, the true :  
How dear each thread that Freedom wove  
Into the woof and warp of love  
    For red, and white, and blue !

But long before the dreamer dreamed  
Of Stars and Stripes o’er brave men  
    streamed,

    Its spirit, brave, had life :  
For Freedom’s heart was ever warm—  
Its pulse beats ever uniform—  
    Its soul with unrest rife.

Our fathers’ fathers chafed beneath  
The yoke of Britain, and the wreath  
    Of vict’ry, laurel-crown’d,

Was hung upon the stripe-cros't staff—  
Liberty's air was theirs to quaff—  
Their right as men they found !

Found? Yes—and more than that—they  
gained

Their right, and many a field, blood-stained  
To it sad witness bears !

With patriotic blood ran red  
Dark streams, beside which lay their dead.  
A noble fight was theirs !

As runs the course of human love  
The way of roughness not above—  
So with our love for land :

From first inception, struggling seemed  
The legacy the gods best deemed  
Our portion to command !

The echoes, deep, of Bunker Hill  
A lodgment find in brave hearts still—  
Their roll can never cease !

And many a Jasper now would leap  
Into the fire of hell to keep  
From shame the flag of peace !

We love the uniform they wore :  
We love the brave for love they bore  
Our country, first and last !  
We love the spirit born among  
Dales where Æolus' harp was strung,  
And measured to the blast.

We love the thought that love was theirs—  
A love for liberty that dares  
To scorn a compromise !  
We love the brave because they trod  
The soil o'er which proud Freedom's God  
Stretches His bluest skies !

With that republic-twin's,\* on whom  
So late has fallen hand of gloom,

---

\*France. The obsequies of M. Marie Sadi Carnot,  
President of the Republic, had just taken place.

America's tears blend :  
We know full well affliction's woe,  
When Union's lamp has flicker'd low,  
And hearts of men unbend.

And tho' full oft in splendor spread,  
Our flag has dip'd its regal head  
Before the face of Mors :  
Who mourned not when good Lincoln died,  
When Garfield crossed the Lethan tide  
Where man knows not the shores ?

We little know what bloodshed means  
And far less of its carnage scenes—  
Its horror and its woe :  
But we have those who bore the brunt  
Of bitter warfare at the front  
To thank that it is so !

No more the battle cloud hangs dun :  
No more obscured is glare of sun :  
No more the cannon's sound :

Peace, lily-beautified, prevails :

Peace, in whose sight e'en fierce Mars  
                    quails :

Peace—powerful, profound !

## Shall We Give Up the Flags?

---

Dedicated to (then) Governor J. B. FORAKER of Ohio, veteran-statesman, whose position against the order of the Executive—that all stands of colors taken from belligerent Confederates, during the “late unpleasantness,” be returned to the States represented by the ensigns at the time of bellicose relations—aroused the latent indignation of the citizens—especially the veterans—of the North, and resulted in the ill-timed, unprecedented order being rescinded.

Shall we give up flags so dearly—hardily,  
as were these,—bought :

Taken from the hands of traitors who to  
knife the Union sought ?

Shall we give—reward to treason—trophies  
of its shame and fall,

Won on fields of knightly valor by the  
brave who knew the call

Of their country, sore distressed, and an-  
swered as all patriots would

With their banner, proud, insulted by a fel-  
low-brotherhood ?



By an act of legislation, all this would be  
done away !  
And the traitors stand as arrogantly as be-  
fore that day  
When the flag that shadowed Sumter in its  
folds of heav'nly hue  
Was assailed by guns full-shotted—God !  
our red ! our white ! our blue !  
Shall the State, in puerile meekness, then  
forget, though it forgive,  
And insult the men who fought and, 'spite  
the rebel onslaught, live ?

WASHINGTON, D. C., 1886.

## My Country!

---

My country—beautiful, supreme,  
As ever blessed Utopian dream—

My country, loved, revered !  
May aught that seeks to overthrow  
My country happiness ne'er know,  
And withered be, and sere !

My country ! ev'ry fierce pulse-beat  
That throbs, with Vulcan's hottest heat,  
Through these, our bodies, free,  
Leaps high at mention of thy name,  
And glories in thy peerless fame—  
Our first love is with thee !

“My country ! right or wrong,” the same !  
My country ! naught shall ever shame  
Thy shield, while brave men live !  
We pride in all that speaks of thee—  
One land, one flag, from sea to sea—  
What glory dost thou give !

My country! poet, tune thy song  
To metres that to its love belong—

My country! sacred land!

My country! ev'ry foe disarmed!

My country! by each rift unharmed!

My country—mount and strand!



# Cardiac Concepts



## Dreamland.

---

Ecstatic gladness fills me,  
A joyful tremor thrills me,  
When, worn with toil, I hasten to its love-  
          embowered domain ;  
Sweet calm steals o'er my spirit  
Whene'er I venture near it—  
The land of dreams of days gone by, where  
          life is young again.

Forgot is all repining :  
I've found the silver lining  
That ev'ry cloud of sorrow has, although so  
          black it seems ;  
With long-dead friends communing,  
While Mem'ry's lyre is tuning—  
What happiness to wander in the vista-land  
          of dreams.

Old loves to new life waking,  
The long years' silence breaking,

And recollections stirring that I hoped, ere  
this, were dead :  
Yet, were it mine—the choosing  
Of keeping or of losing—  
The dream-god oft would visit me and  
heav'nward lift my bed.



## Thanksgiving Violets.

---

Some azure guests from summer-land,  
Preserved through wintry blasts,  
Came to me in the mail to-day.

They show that feeling lasts,  
Though she who sent them from afar  
My features cannot see ;  
To glad my sight she cared so much  
I know she thought of me.

May others choose the golden rod,  
Gay monarch of the fall ;  
While some may hold the blushing rose  
The queen is of them all.

Let each one name the flower the heart  
Warms toward—all else forget—  
And welcome to it! for my part  
I love the violet.

Blessed with the pearly tints of heav'n,  
Tho' deeper be the tint,

It seems that God to them has giv'n  
His favors, without stint.  
Unspeakable, they exemplify  
The good, the pure, the true ;  
Their simple splendors please the eye—  
These friends of mine in blue.

When I was but a little lad,  
And "said my A B C's,"  
A little cup was given me,  
My unformed tastes to please.  
And "Love the Giver " was inscribed  
On it in deepest blue :  
Now, while I love the violet,  
I love the giver, too.

I "Saw" My Loved One Home.

---

I've wandered from the church at home.

Into the world's broad fields,

Yet, at the dawn or in the gloam,

A recollection shields

Me from the snares that, eager, wait

To trap me as I roam—

Of when I waited at its gate

To "see" my loved one home.

The days now come, the days now pass,

Thick-crowded with events,

Yet oft I think of that sweet lass

Who met me at the fence.

A talisman, my fears to charm,

If 'tis on ocean's foam—

The thought of when I took her arm

And "saw" my loved one home.

I ride o'er mountain, hill and plain :

Beside swift-rolling streams,

And mem'ry brings back, o'er again,

Those restful, soothing dreams.  
But, as the ev'ning shadows fall,  
And day sinks into gloam,  
I hear the old-time's glad recall—  
I “saw” my loved one home !  
The future all uncertain lies :  
I would not know her ways—  
I fain would learn, as a surprise,  
Events now thick 'neath haze.  
Yet, tho' I rise, or tho' I fall,  
The thought will ever come  
Of when, from that vine-trellised wall,  
I “saw” my loved one home.  
I know not if I'll see again  
This distant love of mine ;  
Nor yet the happy moment when  
Our fortunes we'll combine.  
But sure am I, when next we meet,  
Beneath high heaven's dome,  
My aspirations I'll repeat—  
And “see” her to *my* home !

## Her Photograph.

---

'T is but a little photograph :

Yet, tho' all El Dorado's gold  
Were scattered 'fore me like the chaff,  
I would not yield it to be sold.

In it true beauty sits enshrined,  
Before which I devoutly bow ;  
While tresses, fretting in the wind,  
Expose her intellectual brow.

The sweeping eyebrows, slightly raised,  
Reveal her twin-star laughing eyes  
Into whose depths I ne'er have gazed  
But to repress my soul's sad sighs.

Well might proud Venus bend the knee  
Before this northern beauty's throne—  
Yea, that, and more, do I to thee,  
And thank high Heaven for its loan.

## Largesse and Dying Embers.

---

They come to me—yes, once again,  
Over the chasm of Time—  
Those hours of joy and sunshine when  
Existence was sublime.

And, in the largesse of my love,  
All else below fell far :  
Each tone knew naught of joy above,  
Nor discord there to mar.

But, as to ashes burns the fire,  
When past is fiercest heat,  
So did her love for me expire :  
Absinthine was my sweet.  
And straitway on a journey went  
This burnt-out frame of mine ;  
Heart's pliant gold was shapeless bent--  
Naught else can it refine.

## I Dreamed My Love Was Dead.

---

I dreamed my love was dead, and dead  
Was all the joy I'd sought ;  
I heard the last sweet words she said,  
And noted down the thought.  
Then fell her form back on the bed :  
A wan, sweet smile I caught,  
Just as her trusting spirit fled  
To realms which God has wrought.  
  
A final sigh escapes her lips,  
Her bosom heaves once more ;  
And fast her hold on life, this, slips—  
Drifting upon that shore  
In one of those God-guided ships,  
With Faith's flag at the fore :  
Then firm this jewel grim Death grips—  
And life's pained days are o'er.  
  
Her corse I followed to the grave,  
My heart bowed down with grief ;

I tried to bear up and be brave,  
But Death, the Silent Thief,  
Had ta'en my love to that conclave  
Of which none knows the Chief,  
And, to my blighted hopes a slave,  
I sought nor found relief.

Her very presence filled the air :  
Her virtues were my theme ;  
Where'er I looked, her image, there,  
Shone, as a fair sunbeam.  
By darkest night, in noon-day's glare,  
Her death-pall was supreme :  
But I awoke, in deep despair—  
And found it all a dream.



## Unrequited Love.

---

I wonder why that all around

Drink life's joy to their fill :

My life is gloom—

The breathless tomb

With song is not more still.

Ah, Love, why didst thou seek my heart

And fill with thy joy?

My hopes are dead,

And now, instead,

My gold is all alloy.

Why did I seek for rest in thee,

My idol and my love?

You love me not—

'T were best forgot

And risen far above.

Forgot? Nay, never, while there be

A heaven and God above!

I'll not forget  
When first we met,  
And thee I learned to love.

Learned? No, that is not the word :  
Love came as birds in Spring—  
Unbidden by  
A look, a sigh :  
Withal, a welcome thing.

I threw my heart's door open wide,  
To let the new face in ;  
When I said : " Go ! "  
She answered : " No—  
Your heart I strove to win ! "

" But, leave ! " I cried, " My love loves not :  
The granite is less cold ! "  
She would not leave ;  
I 'm doomed to grieve—  
O'er what was once fine gold.

Others may at Diana's throne

Pay tribute at her shrine :  
But I must wait  
Till opes the gate  
Where glad death shall be mine.

Aye, welcome Guest, come ! take me where  
I hear no love song's trill :  
But, even there,  
A thought I'll bear—  
I love my idol still !

“To ev'ry lad his lassie-love,”  
A poet sang of old :  
The love I crave  
No rest e'er gave—  
Methinks all hearts are cold.

My earthly sun sank in the west,  
Ne'ermore to rise again,  
When Love withdrew—  
Bade me adieu—  
Most miserable of men.

But if there be a Heav'n beyond,  
Where all shall find release  
From strife and pain,  
Will once again  
I meet my dream of peace?

And will she know and love me there,  
And understand it all—  
The broken heart,  
The tears that start,  
The dead hopes and their pall?

I loved her with a priceless love,  
To which all else gave place :  
But hope is dead,  
And now, instead,  
Oblivion I embrace.

## A Valentine.

---

A valentine: 't is yours—'t was mine :

“ Like unto like,” it greets—

Valentine to my Valentine :

Sweet maids receive the sweets.

It shall not be of verses made

By other minds than mine :

I 'm jealous e'en that far—afraid

To vex my Valentine.

It shall not be a tinsel'd thing,

Enduring but a day,

Of nut-brown Cupids on the wing,

Like humming-birds in May.

Nor shall it be a comic one,

With vulgar words galore,

That shows thee blinking at the sun

In March, on Coney's shore.

No! that which I shall offer thee,

'Round whom my heart-strings twine,

Is love, as boundless as the sea,

All for my Valentine.

## Birthday Greeting—To M. I. B.

---

Some birthday verses? Well, I 'll try  
To write some words to please the eye  
And hold the mind of some one near  
Who may, perchance, the verses hear.  
A birthday is a sacred thing  
To me, and old-time mem'ries bring  
To mind the blithesome days when I,  
A little laddie, oft would try  
To count up to the very day  
When, drawn to full height, I could say :  
“ I 'm 'most a man !—Yes, sir, I 'm ten ! ”  
Ah, me ! how glad did life seem then !  
Then added years brought added cares,  
And, as each load a person bears  
Prepares him for a greater test,  
So each year gave me added zest  
For life's great fight 'tween wrong and right,  
And days of dark gave days of light.  
You 'd have me prophesy for you

A birthday wish. Grant it be true!  
May each succeeding year bestow  
Fresh beauty—add to that pure glow  
That from your clear, true eyes is sent:  
God's message through His innocent.

## In Golden Fetters.

---

Love captive leads a willing slave,  
Who would, and yet would not, be free,  
For, with that freedom he would crave,  
Would come a loss, which, ah ! dear me !  
I can 't explain. And yet 't is sweet,  
And bitter then, to place one's neck  
Into Love's halter, to compete  
With Destiny, that may but wreck  
The hopes that should, and should not, be.  
'T is hard to fight thus 'gainst one's heart :  
To long, yet dread, to e'er be free.  
This state is caused by Love's barbed dart,  
The shaft, once bedded in the breast,  
The barb removal will prevent :  
And from thence on there is no rest,  
But days and nights in torment spent.  
When the fair captor favor shows,  
And smiles upon the pleaded suit,  
He writhes in torture—well he knows



Impatient frowns may be its fruit.  
So must man yield to what, it seems,  
Is but an unrelenting Fate

Of darkened days and bright sunbeams—  
Ne'er knowing when is reached the gate  
That opens up a vista free  
From whimsic, changeful tempers there,  
And shows the border-land to me  
Where sated Love bids Fear beware.

## Heart's Content.

---

I know a place called Heart's Content—  
Not in Newfoundland, either—  
There by my love and me are spent  
Our happiest hours together.

In Heart's Content is care forgot,  
And Hope displaces sighing ;  
It's flow'r is the forget-me-not,  
The bud that 's dead to dying.

In Heart's Content the breezes blow  
With joyous sweets plethoric,  
And naught but peace have we to know  
Who feel their grand rhetoric.

There heartsease grows in ev'ry dell,  
Nor e'er knows extirpation ;  
And birds their raptures seek to tell  
To many a carmed carnation.

Sweet tones, sweet airs, incense and prayers  
Rise from her shades of gladness :  
Fair scenes, fair faces—each declares  
Antipathy for sadness.

Dear Heart's Content! Fair Heart's Con-  
tent!

May I dwell in thy borders,  
Where ever linger airs, God-sent,  
That cure my heart's disorders.

## No Future But Thee.

---

I have no future where thou art not queen ;  
I see no skies, inviting, calm, serene,  
In which thine own sweet features have no  
part ;

I know no one with power o'er my heart  
So great as is thine own !

I feel no pulsing sense of heav'nly hope  
But that thy soul, to fill my own, did ope ;  
I think no thought of love that doth not turn  
To thee, with scope unknown, as fierce fires  
burn—

To thee, my love, alone !

I reach no place in bold Ambition's flight  
That doth not bear thee to that self-same  
height ;

I dream no dream so full of dreamland's  
haze  
But morning-light selects thee from the  
maze

Of other faces, fair !  
I joy in naught that doth not thee include :  
Aye, e'en in slumber's God-sent interlude !  
I pray to Heaven never but I feel  
That thou and I are joined in the appeal—  
In life, in love, in prayer !

## Just Sixteen Years Ago To-Day.

---

Just sixteen years ago to-day  
My sweetheart came to earth,  
And, at her feet, to homage pay,  
I testify her worth.  
No sweeter seraph Raphael saw ;  
No fairer Portia pleaded law ;  
No daintier darling art could draw,  
Than she who then knew birth.

When I would sing her beauties, rare,  
My pen is stultified :  
I love her ! now, what more is there  
In language can abide ?  
I 've told her often how I feel—  
In fact, my love I can 't conceal—  
For love—its own best, strong appeal—  
To this end long has tried.

Each time I see my soul's ideal  
She 's fairer than the last—

When thought I love could but appeal  
To beauty unsurpassed.  
Castalides, O lend your aid  
Until, all homage duly paid,  
My queen I crown—the darling maid !  
My heart at her feet cast !

Euphrosyne, at Venus' feet,  
Her mistress thought was fair,  
But had she seen my own heart-sweet  
Would there have been compare ?  
I cannot see why, when I woo,  
She listens—queen to subject, too !  
Who e'er can doubt that I 'll be true  
To that love which I swear !

## Forget-Me-Not.

---

A delicate forget-me-not  
Was plucked in a secluded spot,  
And on my lapel placed. The flow'r  
Was dead and sere in but an hour.

I wonder will the one who gave  
The token, and whose love I crave,  
Forget me—withered be her love—  
Will she as fickle Nature prove?



A Valentine—To A. L. D.

---

A fresh bud on the New Year vine,  
'Round which faint mem'ries fondly twine,  
The day of old St. Valentine

Comes, cheering souls that ache.  
From youthful mind and sunny heart  
The messages of love depart ;  
Noble and plebeian play their part—  
The part all true hearts take.

And if there be a wounded soul  
Who this day loses self-control,  
And of his love pours out the whole—

Who dares to say him nay ?  
For such as he the day was born,  
Though all the other days he mourn :  
For Love, at once a rose and thorn,  
Provides this gala day.

Long use has sanction'd verbiage, ripe  
In form, for rhymesters' notes to pipe ;

I 'll deviate from this archetype

And call thee friend—dear friend!

Love may be real and true, devout,

But Love and I have long been “out.”

One thing there is I 'll never doubt—

Thou art my friend till th' end!

## The Old Love's Claim.

---

When the Old Love we bid begone  
Has left the portals of the heart,  
And other loves our torn souls don,  
We think the Old Love has no part  
Now in our lives. But we awake,  
After the lapse of joyless years,  
To find Time's pillow wet with tears  
We fain would hide for New Love's sake.

Our waking thoughts may e'er be true  
To the New Love we learned to wean  
From old affections—but there grew  
Upon the Old Grave myrtle green.  
We would deny the Old Love's claim—  
With fervor deify the New—  
But life has never been the same  
Since the Old Love in tears withdrew !

The lucubrations of the heart  
Will oft by mem'ries, old, be led

Into a train whose way had start

Back in the crypt of that Love, dead.  
And tho' we struggle to retain

In honesty the last-sought guest,  
A psychic tremor chills the breast  
And, leaving, 'queaths a shaft of pain.

The thought that now seems *apropos*,  
Suggested by New Love and Old,  
Is, Can the heart of man e'er know

The power its pulses' trends to mold?  
We think we banish from our sky  
Its day-star, tho' the whole it blight—  
But sad years cry: "Love cannot die!  
Thy youth-love all thy life will light!"

## My Love and I.

---

My love and I one day did walk

Thro' fields where soon the rip'ning corn  
Will pendant hang from each brown stalk,

And catch the first kiss of the morn.

We picked the May-bells from yon hill,

That tow'rs, majestically high,

And listened as the mount-born rill

Told us its tale—my love and I.

It sang a song so clear and low

That, as we bent to catch the sound,

We almost touched its icy flow,

As knelt we on the mossy ground.

“ Past woodland, green, and verdant waste

I speed along, and ne'er run dry !”

We could not list to more, for haste

Impelled us on—my love and I.

The sun oft hid behind a cloud,

And left us for a moment's space,

Emerging, then, from its light shroud

To glad with bright Miss Nature's face.  
It looked as if a storm might come—  
The dark clouds scurried o'er the sky  
And warned us we should start for home—  
Yet kept we on—my love and I.

Then the great drops began to fall :  
We saw that it was then too late :  
'T were better in some nook to crawl  
Until the tempest should abate.

I knew a spot where flowers grew,  
And purling waters rippled nigh :  
We 'd wait there till the storm o'er blew,  
And then go home—my love and I.

We reached our goal, and with a bound  
Leaped lightly o'er the laughing brook .  
I spread my coat upon the ground  
To rest on in our sheltered nook.  
'T was there I offered her the heart  
She won in days now long gone by ;  
And there we plighted—ne'er to part—  
That love which bound my love and I.

## Brighter Than the Stars.

---

Bright stars there are in skies above—

The earth and heav'ns between—

But none so bright as is the love

I bear my heart's true queen.

Their brilliance sinks to feeble flame

With love beyond compare

Which easily their glow can shame

Before its radiance, rare.

To what shall liken I the heat

Of love's pure, changeless flow?

Methinks there's naught so full, complete,

In Heav'n nor earth below !

I thank the gods who did endow

My love with gifts so fair,

That, filled with happiness, I bow

Before her—Heav'n is there !

## Four Years Ago.

---

'T was just four years ago, my love,  
    'T was just four years ago,  
That love of you made sad clouds move,  
    As wintry winds the snow,  
        And gold beams cast  
        O'er me, and past  
Was force of Sorrow's blow.

'T was just four years ago, my love,  
    Years teeming with events ;  
We little knew the woe, my love,  
    We 'd look on four years hence :  
        The thoughtless word,  
        The page, tear-blurr'd,  
Give, each, sad evidence.

'T was just four years ago, my love,  
    That in my life was shed  
The radiance true hearts know, my love,  
    Before youth-love is dead :



It merges clear  
With life's each year,  
As brooks to ocean led.

'T was just four years ago, my love,  
Four years of light and shade—  
For life's full records show, my love,  
That love of both is made—  
That o'er my soul  
You took control,  
And gave me yours "in trade!"

'T was just four years ago, my love,  
And well I ween the day,  
When I became your beau, my love,—  
You stole my heart away!  
Devoted yet,  
I do n't regret  
The love these lines convey.

## I Cannot Sin.

---

I cannot sin : my sweetheart said her heart  
was in my breast.

I cannot sin for what she said—'t would  
shame the sainted guest.

I cannot sin : so sweet the thought that she  
is mine for aye !

I cannot sin : for if I did her heart would  
droop and die !

I cannot sin : can weakness be where Love's  
white lilies dwell ?

I cannot sin : can Heav'n contain the crim-  
son reek of Hell ?

I cannot sin : I said : " My heart no longer  
is my own ! "

I cannot sin : she answer made : " Pray,  
keep mine as Love's loan ! "

## Just As Thou Art !

---

Just as thou art ! I ask no other boon  
Than thee to clasp in these strong arms  
of mine  
And feel thine own in love around me  
twine—  
'T were not to end so soon !  
Thou canst not cold remain fore'er  
And I undying love declare  
While gleams yon silv'ry moon !  
My love is not so thus to die :  
No ! Constant I 'll remain,  
Tho' days may come and days may go,  
And Time may have a ceaseless flow,  
And pale moons rise and wane :  
I thee will love, and hold most dear  
The days when to me thou wert near—  
Say, love, will e'er they come again ?

## Enchanted Ground.

---

The dream god came to me last night,  
When folded fast in Morpheus' arms.  
A maid enslaved me by her charms—  
Too fulsome, they, for mortal sight.

How shall I sing her beauty's fame,  
Beside which vaunted Venus' pales?  
Inadequate, my language fails  
To do the justice she would claim.

And, wondrous paradox! the maid  
As I to her, to me was drawn—  
Doubt you I felt then Joy's day-dawn?  
So, for my love, her own she paid.

Had I but then recalled the bound  
Past which I stepped in dreamland's play  
I had not been so sad to-day:  
For I was on enchanted ground.

But I, like other men, love-daft,  
Forgot that it was but a dream  
From which, on waking, but the theme  
Would then remain—a cruel shaft !

We two, in Somnus' fair domains,  
Were wed—I know not how, by whom—  
Dispelled was all my earth-born gloom :  
Yet, of that bliss now naught remains !

And we were happy in the ken  
That I loved her and she loved me :  
Existence—ceaseless ecstasy—  
A dream not oft bestowed on men.

The brightest phantasies must end—  
Mine did not an exception prove :  
Recalled to earth, I left the love  
Who did with me in dreamland blend.

## A Letter.

---

With what glad anticipation—  
Sense of hope's realization—  
Do we burst th' envelope open, when the  
    postman makes his round :  
And our hearts take on new lightness  
As we tear apart the whiteness  
Separating from our visions all the goodies  
    in it found.

Is it from a "flame" of youthful  
Days, when life seemed all so truthful?  
Break the spotless bonds that bind it, mind-  
    ing not the old heart-ache !  
For the days that gave fruition  
But in sadness had their mission,  
And the love that sobbed its life out for ex-  
    perience way did make !

Is it from a friend, whose tidings—  
Interlined with copious chidings  
That your letters, few and far between, are

colder growing—bring  
Bitter pangs of days forgotten,  
Joys, companionship-begotten?  
Delve into its depths and, answ'ring, Sor-  
row's requiem 't will sing!  
Is it from your home-rid mother,  
Whom you left to join another?  
Rend the seal with rev'rence real and read  
her heart-blood in each line!  
Distance, great, may intervene—  
Love will memory keep green—  
And that mother-love will ever 'round your  
inmost being twine!

## My Queen.

---

A TRITE TALE OF COURTSHIP AND MAN-TRAP.

I know a charming maid—my queen—  
Of winsome grace and thoughtful mien ;  
Her voice—the sweetest ever heard—  
My heart's still depths has strangely stirr'd !  
Naught but cold looks I sometimes meet :  
'T is then fain would I, at her feet,  
The story of my love repeat.—  
Was ever wish than this more sweet ?  
But naught of this e'er comes about—  
If e'er it will, I 've many a doubt.  
She 'll laugh or smile at what I say,  
The same, to-morrow, as to-day,  
And yet her heart will lie beyond  
Ambitions, dear, and hopes, most fond !  
How can I pierce this wall of ice,  
And, twain in one, our two hearts splice ?

\*

\*

\*

\*



I have it! When all else shall fail  
I 'll ask her out to take a sail.  
I 'll row, and she the craft shall steer,  
( And she can do it, never fear ! )  
As we adown the waters float,  
Together, in our little boat,  
I 'll whisper love-tales in her ear,  
And breathe the hopes I hold most dear.  
But will she listen ?—" 'There's the rub ! "  
I guess I 'd better send a " sub. ! "—  
But, no ! that plan would never do—  
For he might love my fair queen, too,  
And, thus, by " speaking for himself,"  
Lay all my hopes upon the shelf.  
I think I 'd better do the " job,"  
And hear, with many a strong heart-throb :  
" Yes, dearest one, I will be thine ! "  
Then 'round her neck these arms will twine !  
Ah, rapture ! I will ask her now !—  
But, hold ! I first must find a scow !  
And then I 'll lead her down the bank,

Nor give her chance my pains to thank.  
Ah, without her e'en time is drear !  
But I shall row, and she shall steer.

\* \* \* \*

'T is o'er. I have engaged the boat—  
The price would shame a *table d'hôte* !  
I fear my dream of love 't will sour :  
It costs me fifty cents an hour !  
Should she make answer : “ Wait awhile ! ”  
I 'll ne'er again be known to smile :  
But pull for shore, on some pretense—  
The truth is, I 've but forty cents !

\* \* \* \*

I led her down the slipp'ry bank,  
As proud as knight of titled rank.  
The brown thrush sang its happiest note,  
As merrily on went the boat.  
Our hearts were strangely light and gay,  
As full of sunshine as the day.  
The weather was her op'ning theme,  
As swift we glided down the stream--

But I was thinking of some way  
To make off when 't came time to pay !  
Soon my restraint I cast aside—  
In tones of tend'rest passion cried :  
“ O, dearest one. my soul's love dream  
To you but stultified may seem :  
But, answer—May we, side by side,  
Stem life's deep waters and their tide ? ”

\* \* \* \*

Now, reader, I suppose you think  
My mind was poised on reason's brink,  
And that, my ardor, fierce, to cool  
She told me not to be a fool ?  
She answered nothing of the kind—  
A diff'rent thought was in her mind :  
“ I 'm with you, love, for life—fore'er—  
And you can row—but *I* shall steer ! ”

\* \* \* \*

I waited not to hear aught more,  
But quickly headed for the shore,  
And, landing her upon the quay,

I kissed her hands in ecstasy.  
'T was done! 'T was won! My fairie flow'r!  
And won in but a short half-hour!  
Was fair maid e'er won in shorter?  
As it was, I owed a quarter!

\* \* \* \*

These ten long years, as man and wife,  
We 've battled with the storms of life :  
And children came to bless our home,  
As sunbeams out of darkness come.  
But oft in fancy do I roam  
To that day when, in early gloam,  
I asked my queen to be my wife,  
Where wind met waves in noisy strife.

\* \* \* \*

Often in smiles, seldom in tears,  
I 'm at the oars, and she still steers.

SAULT DE STE. MARIE, MICH., 1890.

Spiritual Selections.



## During a Snow-Storm.

---

The snow in white flakelets is falling to-day,  
So let us be merry, while merry we may !  
To-morrow, old earth may return to her  
gloom—

These tired, world-lorn bodies repose in the  
tomb :

The spirit to the spirit-world take its flight—  
Blest realm, where no sorrow or trouble  
brings night !

The snow is most beautiful : but there 's a  
place

Eternal, forever existing in space :

With which the snow we love—yet shrink  
from its touch—

Cannot compare : for there is none other  
such !

## The Quiet Hour.

---

How restful is the quiet hour :

How soothing 't is, and sweet,

When, freed from all the tempter's power,

I rest at Jesus' feet.

Rest from the trials that oppress,

And make life dead to me :

I muse on Jesus' tenderness,

And bathe me in its sea.

How pleasant from the world to keep :

The world of noise and care !

What sweet joy comes to walk and weep

With Jesus, over there !—

Not over there, but at my side

He 's walking, day by day :

How can I wander with that Guide

To keep me in the way ?

I cannot see the reason why

I am by care oppres't,



When He will hear my ev'ry cry,  
And take me to His breast !  
O, Soul, why shouldst thou fear, or doubt  
His mercy and His care,  
When He has driven Satan out,  
And placed His sunshine there ?

O, Heart, why weary grow, and faint,  
When presses sore the foe,  
When thou canst break from its restraint,  
And to thy Captain go ?  
Why shouldst thou struggle on alone,  
Trusting in thine own might—  
Trying, in vain, to hold thine own  
In the unequal fight ?

How pleasant 't is to lose myself  
In Jesus' loving arms—  
Forgetting worldly pomp and pelf :  
The thing that snares and charms.  
I rise, refreshed : my languor gone :

Trials have flown away:  
And, like the bird at early dawn,  
Push once more into day.

CALAIS, ME., 1891.

## Retribution.

---

The angels weep to-morrow :  
To-day, man weakly falls :  
The angels weep for sorrow  
In lightsome heav'nly halls.

The sons of men, disdainful,  
Scorn's finger, cruel, point :  
And Sin's heart-wound, tho' painful,  
With virus they anoint.

His quondam friends, hard-hearted,  
Repudiate his name :  
From each dear tie he 's parted,  
By reason of ill-fame.

Could he have viewed the ending  
That Sin's path had in store,  
Would he, with will quick-bending,  
Have fallen, as before ?

A good name—precious treasure !—  
Once lost, man can't regain :  
And Sin doles out its measure  
Of woe in man's disdain.

The angels weep to-morrow :  
To-day, man weakly falls :  
The angels weep for sorrow  
In lightsome heav'nly halls.

## New Year Resolutions.

---

“ New Year ”—what possibilities  
In thee the wearied sinner sees :  
    What chance for better-doing!  
What hope to right the wrong of years :  
To reap in joy seed sown in tears,  
    Despite others’ construing.

The struggling son of Adam—born,  
It oft-times seems, to live to mourn  
    Too ready acquiescence  
When flesh and spirit warfare waged,  
Power’s balance leaving, weak, engaged  
    Against his own soul’s prescience—

Takes firmer hold on sweeter life—  
Sweeter because of beck’nings, rife,  
    To walk in higher places!  
Far in the future’s horoscope  
But one star gleams—the Star of Hope—  
    And ’round it group the graces

He fain would woo, in intent, strong,  
Tho' bitter be the strife, and long,  
    And rough the way up-leading.  
Help with your prayers, ye strong in faith,  
Those hope to whom is but a wraith,  
    Advancing and receding.

## A Negative Thanksgiving.

---

HABAKKUK iii, 17-19.

'Tho' the fig tree shall not blossom,  
Neither fruit be in the vine ;  
Labour of the olive faileth,  
Lean and wretched be the kine ;  
And, no wheat the green fields yielding,  
Want stands out in profile, bold,—  
Give your thanks! for One is shielding  
Ev'ry soul who owns His fold.

Once the fields, with flocks plethoric,  
Promise gave of plenteous store :  
Emptied, now, in ev'ry corner,  
And their place knows them no more.  
Herds that in the stalls were lowing,  
Nearby to the garner'd grain,  
Faint and fall, to earth, bestowing  
That which shall not live again.

He Who walks in highest places,  
    Bidding earth-worn souls to come,  
Freely gives to all His graces  
    Who regard his home, sweet home.  
Lift your hearts, in God rejoicing!  
    Thank Him you, unworthy, live—  
Thus, your soul and mind loud voicing  
    A Thanksgiving negative!



## A Prodigal's Return.

---

Thro' dark'ning mists of shame-wrought  
tears :

Thro' low'ring mists of fruitless years :  
Full, shining bright, a star appears—

God's love, so long untasted !

Tho' I rebelled—threw off the yoke  
Of Him Who pardon to me spoke—  
No joyful sprite could I invoke :

My life was barren, wasted.

In worldly joys I sought to dim  
Rememb'rance of the thought of Him  
Who braved, for me, the cross-bent limb—

Endured the agony !

But joy I knew not, nor her face,  
Until implored I Jesus' grace :  
He gave a welcome to the place  
Unfilled—reserved for me !

## My Evening Prayer.

---

On, stealthily, the shadows creep,  
And 'round about me fall :

And soon the restful monarch, Sleep,  
Will hold me in his thrall.

I bend the knee beside my bed,  
And tell all that day's cares  
To One Who, in His Word, has said  
He 'd hear my feeble prayers.

I tell of vict'ries in His name,  
When were temptations rife :  
And, boldly, His sweet promise claim  
For vict'ries all through life.

I pour my troubles and my woes  
Into His waiting ear :  
And calm peace comes to know He knows  
About them, and is near.

The shades of night creep on apace,  
But with them comes no fear :

For I have sought and found the face  
Of my Redeemer, dear.  
He 's heard the story of the day—  
He knew it ere 't was told—  
And, tho' the skies are cold and gray,  
I 'm safe within His fold.

My prayer is said : the answer, sure :  
And yet I linger there :  
For to my ear, with passion pure,  
There comes another prayer—  
One ? Yes, and more : e'en numberless  
The nightly prayers that rise  
From God's beloved in distress,  
Who wait for sweet replies !

I hear a Voice : " Son, not alone  
Ascends thy helpless call  
To Him Who, from His mighty throne,  
Notes ev'ry sparrow's fall :  
For many millions, at this hour,

Are low bowed at His feet,  
Imploring for the Spirit's pow'r,  
The day to make complete."

I fear no evil nigh my head :  
Omnipotent the care  
Of Him Whose angels, o'er my bed,  
Anticipate each prayer.  
And, tho' the world misjudge my ways,  
I shall not fear or weep :  
But live a life of ceaseless praise,  
And enter in His sleep.

CALAIS, ME., 1891.

## Easter.

---

To-day, the Easter lilies bloom,  
When came from out the grewsome tomb  
    The Lord of tide and time.  
To-day, we loud hosannas sing :  
Hosannas to our risen King,  
Who came to earth His peace to bring—  
    Was love e'er more sublime?

No more dominion now has Death :  
These are the words the Good Book saith :  
    For dieth He no more !  
To-day, we raise our glad acclaim  
To glorify our Lord's dear name :  
Past, present, future, e'er the same—  
    This Christ Whom we adore !

For, as in Adam dieth all,  
In Christ is ta'en away Death's thrall,  
    And Azrael's bitter sting.

Rejoice, ye sons of men, rejoice !  
Let ev'ry heart and ev'ry voice  
With songs of joy laud Heaven's Choice—  
The Glorified, the King !

Ye who are risen with the Lord,  
Raise psalms of joy with one accord :  
And seek those things above,  
Where sitteth, e'er, at God's right hand  
The Lord of life, of sea, of land—  
The Fairest of the fair that stand  
In th' heav'n of purest love !

To-day, the Easter lilies bloom :  
To-day, dispell'd is all earth's gloom—  
The risen Christ is Lord !  
In beauty, brighter than the light  
Of moon and stars in skies at night,  
He reigns, in spotless ermine-white—  
By earth and heav'n adored !

“A Little Child Shall Lead Them.”

---

The surpliced choir an anthem sang :

The notes were all correct :

From the mosaic'd chancel rang

The songs of God's elect.

Each part was represented there,

And perfect was the time—

For each was paid the part to bear

In melody sublime.

But that day music seemed to lack

Its pow'r to fill the soul :

And echo sent the sweet sounds back,

With long and measur'd roll.

The preacher prayed and sermonized :

A goodly man was he :

And told of that Life sacrificed

On the remorseless tree.

The sermon o'er : “ Now, rise and sing,”

The parson slowly said.  
“ O, Death, where is thy vaunted sting? ”  
The parson slowly read.  
Full out upon the sacred air  
A childish treble soared :  
“ Ye men of Israel, prepare  
The way of Christ, the Lord ! ”

All through the hymn the sweet child-tone  
Prevail'd, in accents, clear :  
And men and women, harden'd grown,  
Brushed back th' unbidden tear.  
The days of childhood—mem'ries old—  
Seemed fresh as yestermorn :  
And men who lived now but for gold  
Felt higher impulse born.

And hypocrites—sepulchres, white !—  
Whose hearts no man could read,  
Felt in their souls God's richest light—  
Thus did the child-song plead.



Dark brows, that care had furrow'd deep,  
Grew smoother, even calm :  
Souls dormant woke from sin's death-sleep  
At sound of that sweet psalm.

And when the song had died away,  
The minister knelt down :  
"Brothers and sisters, let us pray!"  
He said, and smoothed his gown.  
But never mind about his prayer—  
The child-voice stirr'd each heart :  
And ev'ry man and woman there  
For holier ways made start.

## A Soliloquy.

---

Far out upon the sunlit stream,  
The oarsman sweeps the blade :  
See how it glitters with the gleam  
By heav'nly sunlight made !

And now they 're feathered by the hand  
Deep-skilled with life-long use :  
And, as he nears the pebbly strand,  
He casts each long oar loose.

Too soon, my brother, strong the tide  
Sweeps in around thy boat,  
Just as, with selfish, greedy pride  
The miser learns to gloat.

Too soon thoust cast thine oar aside—  
Trusting thy barque to fate :  
And unrelentlessly the tide  
Sweeps toward its ocean gate.

How true it is that many a soul  
Too soon throws down the oar :

Thinking that it has reached the goal,  
When intervenes much more.

In triumph's flush, the pleasure's flame  
Quick casts each barrier down :  
We ask for naught but fleeting fame,  
And sigh for laurel'd crown.

Full many a soul abandons Cross,  
Because of Crown assured :  
But to all such 't will be but loss  
Who have not long endured.

We trust too much to what our strength  
Accomplished in the past,  
But we awaken when, at length,  
Our barque bends to the blast.

Then let us not forego the oar.  
Because of rest we miss :  
Repose we have not till we soar  
To realms of changeless bliss.

## An Easter Anthem.

---

Ye hosts of Heaven bow the head—

For Christ, the Lord, is risen !

He left the dark place of the dead—

The Saviour, Christ, is risen !

The spotless Son of God, Who came

Lost, fallen man to save—reclaim

Him by the fall born to its blame—

Yea, Christ, the Lord, is risen !

The first-fruits of the souls that slept

Became He Who is risen !

And Mary's tears, in anguish wept,

Availed, for Christ is risen !

Let sounds of sorrow change to joy :

Let ev'ry heart its all employ :

For One Whom death could not destroy—

E'en Christ, the Lord, is risen !

Triumphant over death and sin,

Jesus, the Lord, is risen !

In Thee, alone, can life begin,  
My Saviour, now arisen !  
My soul Thy name doth magnify,  
Dear Lord, for Whom 't was not to die !  
Now rings the chorus, loud, on high,  
For Christ, the Lord, is risen !



# Memorial and Personal





Mrs. Harrison.

---

Columbia bows her head, and sobs  
The grief she cannot speak,  
For in her arteries there throbs  
Sorrow, that Death should seek  
The fireside of her honored chief,  
And steal away his love :  
Thus 't is our hearts are bowed with grief—  
We can but look above  
To where, secure from earthly pain,  
Safe in the Hav'n of Rest,  
Her spirit waits till, once again,  
It joins him she loved best.  
Her deeds of love and charity  
Live after, and are writ  
On hearts of all humanity  
Who reaped her benefit.  
No more let weeping now be heard :  
Caroline Harrison

Has lived to hear the Master's word :

“ My faithful child, well done ! ”

OCTOBER 26, 1892.

James Gillespie Blaine.

---

“‘The Plumed Knight’ we loved is dead!”

So ran the word

Where’er is heard

‘The sound of speech, or print is read.

Azrael triumphed o’er the will

Of iron strength,

And, then, at length,

Mors’ accents spoke, and all was still.

In life, respect was his : and love

For service done,

Fresh laurels won

From those who did his course approve.

His life was one of peace : his end—

So long foreseen—

Calm and serene :

So did the Pine to Boreas bend !

Forgot be all the dark that gave  
But blighted hope :  
His horoscope  
Could but foretell his end : the grave.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JAN. 28, 1893.

Gen. John A. Logan.

---

Let poets sing of conquests done :  
Of battles fought, and vict'ries won :  
But Logan—than whom stronger mind  
And braver heart in clay confined  
Had never life—knew need of none  
His praise to sing. Where shines the sun  
On nation blessed with human light

But Logan's name  
And Logan's fame  
Forestalled its glories ere the night?

Each rain drop, falling when he died,  
Drip'd Heaven's tears at that bed-side !  
And ev'ry tree that sigh'd in wood  
Bemoaned his death—the noble, good !  
His countrymen knelt by that crypt,  
Where lay his mold, of life-beat strip't :  
And no one paused beside the bier

Of warrior—seer,  
But left a tear  
To tell the angels he was dear.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JAN. 10, 1887.

Lord Alfred Tennyson.

---

Unstring his lyre, and lay it by  
    Britain's dead poet's side :  
The fount of feeling is not dry  
    'Tho' Tennyson has died !  
He lived while we were yet unborn :  
    He sang ere we could speak :  
His life, as pure as nascent morn,  
    'Tho' wild winds blew, and bleak.  
We mourn him. Aye, the man who led  
    Our minds to depths most deep  
Shall have our love, tho' life has fled,  
    And we are left to weep.

OCTOBER 8, 1892.

Edward Everett Hale.

---

His word-simplicity frown'd pomp to shame,  
And homely thoughts yield, 'neath his  
pen, pure gold:

He sought not, yet it found him out, glow'd  
fame :

And truth of spirit marked each tale he  
told.

His was the story-teller's art : and plain  
The inspiration that controll'd his mind :

His was the glory that can know no wane :

And his the satisfaction good men find.

He wrote in words that shone with honesty :

He breathed his love for God in ev'ry line :

He taught us love of country as best he

Was able—his love bordered the divine !



Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

---

Her practis'd hand struck chords of passion'd wealth :

Her repertoire—the gamut of the soul—  
Was swept with grand effect. The forced  
stealth

Of thought play'd 'round her lyre, and to  
control.

She sang her heart-songs, sweet, to airs  
that all,

Who know that pow'r within themselves,  
may feel :

She sounded to the dormant clay the call  
Of passion, strung to notes of purpose,  
real.

To her the thanks of reawaken'd hearts  
Are due. Her lays of faultless-molded  
fashion

Will live in future days, and play their parts  
When dust remains of the Poet of Passion.



## Miscellaneous



## A Pneumatological Query.

---

Oh, tell me, ye spirits who rove at the bid  
Of a Spirit in majesty 'rayed,  
In a world from the sight of earth-lorn men  
hid,

Where One, Prajapati, is obeyed :  
Do ye efforts note Veda's light to increase  
Of truth-seekers here on earth below ?  
We abjure our souls their vain struggles  
surcease :

But yet but unrest have we to know.

Oh, tell me, ye souls who from earth-scenes  
have fled

To lands where conception Sruti knew :  
Will the hopes, prized immortal, fore'er be  
dead—

The hopes that did with joy life imbue ?  
We mortals, short-sighted, see with finite  
eyes :

Reason, likewise dwarfed, pierces no  
more :

Will Immortality's star, acronic, rise

At Death upon a golden-sheen'd shore ?

## Christmas.

---

'T is Christmas time !  
The joy-bells chime !  
And merry voices, singing,  
Recall to earth  
The Saviour's birth—  
New life to mortals bringing.

Each glad yule-tide  
The whole world, wide,  
With laughter sets to ringing !  
While in the skies,  
We may surmise,  
Angelic choirs are singing.

The icy flow  
The brook-elves know  
Is stopped, and, o'er it flinging .  
A mantle, white,  
Comes in the night  
Old Kris, with bells a-jingling.

The cold wind, blown  
O'er graves, moss-grown,  
Makes music 'mongst the dead :  
Among the boughs  
Bad sprites carouse  
Noisily overhead.

O, joyous day,  
For once portray  
To these weak hearts of ours  
That day of days  
When Him we praise  
Came, in the land of flowers !

And shepherds, wild,  
The infant Child  
Beheld, with reverent love :  
While Cherubim  
And Seraphim  
Sent blessings from above.



“ ’92 and ’93.”

---

Slowly across the mount of Time  
Two trav'lers wend their way :  
Carefully, painf'ly, up they climb,  
For one is old and grey.  
The other, a fair, bright-eyed youth,  
With merry, dancing eye,  
Minds not the weary climb—forsooth,  
The Old One soon must die.  
They sight a mile-stone far ahead :  
The Grey Beard sees his end :  
A few more rods of road they tread,  
And then is reached the bend.  
On one side of the stone, they knew,  
Altho' they could not see,  
Were cut the figures, “ ’92 ”—  
On th' other, “ ’93.”  
A parting shake : a far-reach'd sigh :  
They part—each to his own—  
The elder's day has come to die :  
The youth's to walk alone !

## The Poet's Make-up.

---

'T is not the faculty to rhyme,  
Tho' quaint may be the thought,  
That makes the poet of our time,  
By whom great things are wrought.  
'T is not the gift to tell a tale  
In measured, flowing verse—  
To write in words that never fail,  
For better or for worse.

It is the pow'r to sympathize  
With Nature in her moods :  
To read the thought in violet eyes,  
And in the cloud that broods  
With features, low'ring, sullen, black,  
O'er landscape, beast and man,—  
To linger in the tempest's track,  
And therein find God's plan.

## Destiny.

---

### NOW.

When present scenes are ripe with gloom  
And sadness,  
We think the future years have room  
For gladness :  
Nor thought of youth's departed bloom—  
Gay madness !

### THEN.

We retrospect the flight of years  
And paining,  
And see, as now, the self-same fears  
Restraining  
Our hopes and joys : but with sad tears  
Complaining.

### Unreality.

---

These beauteous things we often touch,  
And handle with delight—  
Are they all real? We love them much :  
Yet oft they fade from sight.  
A loved one's kiss may be bestowed :  
As one the hearts respond ;  
Indifference comes : takes its abode,  
And withers Love's gold frond.

## Waiting.

---

I wait, and wait, and wait—for what ?

For favored Fortune's smile ?

Or for the passing of some spot

From off my life's sun-dial ?

Yes, that is it : my light is hid

Beneath a bushel's gloom :

I hither go at Fancy's bid—

Devoid of Hope's bright bloom.

A melancholy person—I,

Who joy personified

In those bright days, now long gone by,

And live now self to chide ?

But I am waiting. As I wait

To hear my joy-bells ring,

I fancy that a pard'ning Fate

May take back ev'rything.

Why can I never have heartsease

Growing about my nest ?

But God's ways do not always please,  
E'en if they turn out best.  
The darken'd cloud may yet reveal  
A silver lining's sheen :  
Now o'er my mem'ry voices steal—  
Her fields are ever green.

## Thought.

---

The day in long, gray shadows merges into  
early night,  
And, nestward bound, on leaden wing, the  
weary birds take flight ;  
Dark shadows fall athwart the sky : the sun  
has ta'en his leave :  
And moon and stars the firmament with  
silv'ry glimm'rings cleave.  
The laborer, his day's work done—a happy,  
sensual clod !—  
Is home, with wife and little ones. Yes,  
let him thank his God  
That golden dreams of wealth and fame do  
not beset his heart !  
Content, he eats his crust and drinks that  
for him set apart.  
Would that I might escape an hour from  
thought of what has been :  
And, in oblivion, forget all—forget all, e'en  
my sin !

Forget that e'er I loved and wooed—but  
loved and wooed in vain—

Forget that happiness is gone : forget e'en  
to complain !

'T is twilight hour, and I 'm alone—alone :  
yes—but for Thought !—

Would that my guest would now depart,  
with all the train he brought !

I fear too oft I sought his face when first  
he came : his stay

Bids fair to be a lengthy one—forever and  
a day.



To a Little Child.

---

Kind Heaven sends a sunbeam, now and  
then,  
Dispersing clouds of sorrow, joy-defying,  
Dispelling tears and mundane sounds of  
sighing,  
And gladdening the souls of sin-starved  
men.

Fill'd with the fresh'ning vigor of the morn,  
With smiles for those who seldom know  
but tears :  
Unconscious of the coming troublous  
years—  
Exuberant, and free from cares, unborn.

## Beyond the Tears.

---

There are times when the light seems to die  
in our lives,

And we turn, for relief, to the grave :  
And we write in the tome of our tear-  
blurr'd archives

These few words : "Soul, look up, and be  
brave !"

And we see naught ahead but the sad grind  
of years,

With their tale of distress and defeat :  
But we smile, tho' the hope-light is wet  
with our tears,

When we think that in Heav'n is rest,  
sweet.

There are times when our hearts to no joy-  
songs respond :

When life's whole deaden'd is, blank and  
sere :

But we see, thro' the lift of the veil, that  
beyond

Which our sorrows but make us to near.  
Oh, how glad is the thought, tho', at times,  
't is forgot,

That our hearts we must leave here below :  
For the sin they contain would but sad all  
our lot

Should we bear them above when we go.

## Thrice Happy He.

---

Thrice happy he whose soul responds  
To songs of minor key !  
Who never knew Ambition's bonds :  
Again, thrice happy he !  
A master, unrelenting, stern,  
Whose fires are never quenched, but burn  
Forever, in that crucial urn,  
The heart of man, once free.

Thrice happy he who, in content,  
Laughs loud at carping Care !  
With soul on present pleasure bent,  
And sadden'd moments, rare,  
He feels no longings after Fame,  
Nor wish to make for him a name :  
His heart ne'er knew the gods' hot flame,  
Nor depth of soul-despair.

## A Query.

---

When this corporeal frame of mine,  
Now full of life as nectar'd wine,  
Is from man's vision laid away  
Till earth shall claim the God-lent clay—  
Will any one pause at my bier  
To say : “ A friend I loved lies here ! ”  
And will my virtues be recalled  
By those whom Friendship's ties enthrall'd ?

Will any one my sleep regret ?—  
'T is but the payment of life's debt  
Contracted ere I knew birth's fact,  
Or subscribed to the fatal pact !  
Will any human call me friend  
When mundane things shall have an end ?  
And will the love I bear for one  
Make soft that heart when life is done ?

## While on the Hook Mountain.

---

I wandered to the mountain-side,  
To seek out mind-repose,  
And looked down on the Hudson's tide,  
Just as it ebbs and flows.  
I scaled the beetling precipice,  
And from that lofty seat  
I looked far down the deep abyss,  
Where wind and waters meet.

I went on, where the gnarled oak  
Stood, in gaunt majesty,  
And listened as the waters spoke,  
And told strange tales to me.  
I heard the tree-tops sigh and creak,  
As in the wind they swayed :  
I gazed far up the topmost peak,  
And then down shaded glade.

I picked the May-bells as they grew  
Among the rocks and moss,

And violets, of azure hue,  
    Made heavier my cross.  
I spied a rock shaped like a chair,  
    And there sat as I wrote,  
While bending, from my seat, mid-air,  
    O'er many a passing boat.

I dreamed and dozed and dozed and  
    dreamed,  
    As Nature urged to rest—  
And yet she never fairer seemed  
    Than from my eyrie nest.  
The hawk and eagle spread their wings,  
    And far beneath me flew :  
Yet—tho' above terrestrial things—  
    I was above them, too.

## Thanksgiving.

---

So many blessings crowd our path,  
So rich with full fruition,  
We scarce feel their sweet aftermath :  
Appreciate their mission.  
With joys familiar we become,  
Nor see in them God's working :  
In duties, tho' they be hum-drum,  
We find but means for shirking :  
We see the sunshine all the earth  
With cheery hues adorning :  
And oft our hearts, when dead to mirth,  
Respond to naught but mourning.  
And Nature's beauties crown the lot  
Wherein God willed our living,  
And yet His mercies are forgot—  
Our hearts are unforgiving  
Toward some one of human-kind  
Who may, perchance, have wronged us.  
Why cherish hatred in the mind



When God with love has thronged us ?  
We fail to see, behind some cloud  
Of woe, to us appearing,  
Soul-strength or beauty, God-endow'd,  
Which, by that cross, we 're nearing.  
God's purposes we cannot pierce  
With finite understanding,  
And oft behind a tempest, fierce,  
Lies safety, notwithstanding,  
We see but blackness in our way :  
In sorrow seems our ending :  
But God will send a hope-fraught ray—  
His love, from Heaven bending.  
With malice toward no fellow man,  
Freely all wrongs forgiving,  
Render to God the most you can—  
A love-laden Thanksgiving.

## A Hallowe'en Recipe.

---

Hurrah for to-night ! All Hallowe'en  
Is thrown upon the gay world's screen.  
For choice, red apples let us "bob,"  
While damsels gaze, with anxious throb,  
Into the mirror for a sight  
Of males with whom their vows they'll plight.  
On tip-toe let us stand, and try  
To bite that apple, stringing high.  
To giddy girls : water and salt  
Swelled in your peachy cheeks will halt  
The apparition of your spouse.  
Leered pumpkins, hung from quiv'ring  
boughs  
Of yonder fecund chestnut tree,  
Cause elves to dance in ghoulish glee.  
Then gather 'round the cheery fire,  
And, as the flames mount higher, higher,  
Ghost stories tell, till faint ones fear

A spectre may, e'en now, be near.  
When to your bed you make your way,  
And, kneeling, for each loved one pray,  
Do not, because 't is over, grieve,  
But wait till next comes "Holler Eve."

## Spring Apostrophizes.

---

I 'm Gentle Spring, the hated bane  
Of editors, who seek, in vain,  
To kill off poets, who declare—  
Those chaps, you know, with jungle hair—  
That sunshine never seemed more bright  
Than since I sprang from Winter's night.

I 'm Gentle Spring—you know me well—  
For me agonic raptures swell :  
I 'm shunned by poets of fair fame,  
But yet I "get there, just the same."  
Queen Summer springs from out my lap :  
But Summer is n't "on the map!"

I 'm Gentle Spring : the printer swears  
Whene'er my name in "copy" stares  
Him in the face. Perhaps the thought  
Of iced cream that must soon be bought,  
With other sweet commodities,  
Compels his marrow. lean, to freeze !

I 'm Gentle Spring—what 's that : “ a truce ? ”  
You all consign me to “ the deuce ”—  
Tell me to “ get to blazes out ! ”  
In tones a long way from devout ?  
All right : just wait until next year,  
And you the self-same song shall hear !

## The Drum.

---

Great orchestras, with swelling chords ;  
Crude savages, with noise of gourds ;  
Brass bands, each piece of sounding key ;  
Bass viols, fusing ecstasy ;  
Tom-toms, with noisy, dull-toned beat ;  
Guitars, with musing sonance sweet ;  
Shrill fifes, that pierce the list'ning ear :  
The tuba-horn, to blow which beer  
Is needed to enforce the wind ;  
Reverb'rant reeds of eastern Ind :  
Piano-forte, arpeggios-fraught ;  
Æolian trills, by Amphion taught ;  
And melting sweeps of zither, soft  
As by Euterpe borne aloft ;  
The rattling ring of banjo thrum ;  
The sound-majestic roll of drum—  
    The drum ! The drum !  
    From whose depths come  
Those martial tones to which succumb

The cav'ling fears faint manhood knows,  
And send, to battle 'whelming foes,  
Brave hosts, 'gainst which naught can op-  
pose.

The faintest hearts at once become  
The bravest at the sound of drum!

## The Judge's Decision.

---

A local daily did me the honor to submit the verses received in an inter-State Christmas poetry contest, for my decision thereon, which is here appended :

Dear Mr. Editor: You ask  
Of me a most brain-racking task.  
When I next on your kind impose  
With stilted verse, may these eyes close!  
I once thought my villanelles brought  
Joy in the sanctum—wonders wrought  
Among those who, by cruel Fate,  
Must therein for subscribers wait.  
But, since you 've asked me to partake  
Of suff'rings yours: Fame's hot thirst slake:  
Essaying to do that which you,  
From time lost track of, have gone thro'—  
Methinks I 'll ne'ermore versify.  
Nor cause more editors to die.  
Alas! alack! what breasts were beat  
In many a sanctum's dark retreat!  
What cries of anguish rent the air!  
( 'T was verily good I was not there! )



What curdling curses on my head!  
What loving things of me were said—  
And all because my vagrant Muse  
Their souls did not, as mine, enthuse!  
The task assigned is delicate—  
So many on my answer wait—  
And criticisms will ensue  
Soon as the victor 's brought to view.  
Of merit there 's a modicum  
In each verse, howe'er cumbersome  
With useless anapæstic sounds :  
Verse erstwhile played at hare and hounds :  
Again, poor rhythm, scant'ly yoked  
With thoughts by no means poor, invoked  
My pity that the writer had  
Not yet discerned 'tween good and bad.  
First honors reach " A Christmas Star,"  
While " Santa Claus," the children's Czar,  
Passes, for " place," beneath the " wire : "  
All others vainly tuned the lyre.

## That Quizzing Blizzard.

---

Ye bards who scale Parnassian heights,  
Who know Olympia's fierce delights :  
Ye hacks who woo the Muse o' nights :

Thrice palsied be the wing  
Of flame poetic—Fate-fraught shaft !  
That stamps you stultified and daft :  
The fetid inspiration quaff't  
Of gentle, beauteous Spring !

Quaint Farmer Dunn, in jean attire,  
Poured out the vials of his ire :  
Discordant is the Spring-tuned lyre,  
While falls the snow—ker-flump !  
Breathes there a man so lost to shame,  
So careless of his own fair fame,  
As 't write of Spring, in words of flame ?  
That man 's a soulless chump !

Just think ?—that storm of yesterday

Has ta'en our trusting faith away  
In Granger Dunn, of New York Bay,  
    Who made a bad "miscue."  
A zephyr, fresh from Peary's fleet,  
An Afric simoon chanced to meet :  
They places changed : the joke 's complete :  
    Let Spring begin anew.

APRIL 12, 1894.

## Ineffectual Genius.

---

"The ineffectual genius of the nineteenth century, I fancy, which betrays itself by strange incongruities and contrasts of a violent kind, but is otherwise unproductive," Mrs. Orton Beg whispered to Mr. Frayling, incautiously.  
—*The Heavenly Twins*.

Genius—and ineffectual ?

Can such as that exist

When God the intellectual

With glowing fire has kis't ?

Barren and fruitless gifts bestowed

When birth brought life's clear view :

Is this the *fin de siècle* mode

Of plenishing with new

The worn, a-wearied action-line

That Genius' nation knows—

Of marking out the arts' decline

To emphasize their close ?

Shall Muses speak to inchoate

And far unworthy minds,

Or shall they seek the old estate,

Where lofty souls one finds ?  
Shall thrill Euterpe's strains of might,  
When none can feel their charms :  
Or e'en the stars the blue bedight  
When earth seeks Somnus' arms ?  
Genius, whose flame can never flare,  
Tho' oft thou art invoked,  
Thy fire-tip'd shaft is ever bare—  
Thy soul to genius yoked !

## The Press.

---

From out the chaos of a world unknown

In parts to other parts ;

From out the noisy Babel, where alone

Prevails the din of marts ;

From need that sprang from mind, un-  
satisfied

By herald's meagreness :

Behold, a pow'r appears : nor yet belied

By name—behold, the Press !

Its power ? To Niagara's foam-tip'd fall,

Add all earth's water-force—

The mighty Press, unfettered, is to all

As is old Ocean's course !

Ten million eyes this Argus hath, and  
naught

Of worth, or small or great,

Eludes his observation, but is caught

For men's minds, news-belate.

Men's wrongs, like sins unpunished, cry  
aloud

For succor and redress :

And, championing the right, from Wrath's  
dun cloud,—

Behold, the Press !

Advancement, Progress, Light and Life, in  
bold,

Bright caption its shield dress :

Might, Right are ever, truly thine—behold,  
The Press!

## Despair.

---

Grim are thy shadows, O, Despair!  
Grim are thy shadows—grim and bare!  
Dark is the way that leads to thee!  
Dark is the mind that pleads to thee!  
Black are the clouds that o'er thee dwell—  
Black as the clouds that shadow hell!  
Deep the abyss that meeteth thee!  
Deep the heart-burn that greeteth thee!  
Dun is the pall that hides thy face!  
Dun is the fall from human grace!  
Dreary the path that knows no end!  
Dreary the souls who on it wend  
Ways to the crypt of black Despair:  
Ways to the shadows, grim and bare!

Steeped in the mists of human hate!  
Steeped in the grists of 'pending Fate!  
Might lends to rage its doubl'd pow'r!  
Might rends the guage of troubl'd dow'r!



Mighty the waves of fierce, foul scorn !

Mighty the staves of curses born !

Tragic the wild thoughts then that roll !

Tragic the requiem of the soul !

Damn'd, thrice, the heart that knows thy  
                  blight !

Damn'd, thrice, the man who knows thy  
                  might !

Grim are thy shadows, O, Despair !

Grim are thy shadows—grim and bare !

## The Italian Match Boy.

---

“ Please, buy some matches, lady,  
No carry so much then ;  
The road is long and dusty,  
And nothing for me when  
The day is done but to lay down  
To sleep, beneath some tree :  
Please, buy some matches, lady,  
Buy matches, ma'am, from me ?.

“ A cruel man is my padrone—  
He beats me till I 'm sore,  
Because nobody buys a box—  
Because I can't sell more.  
Just see how clear the matches snap :  
Take 'em—ten cents for three?  
Please, buy some matches, lady,  
Buy matches, ma'am, from me ? ”

\* \* \* \*

“ You be rich lady, madam.,

Some day, for what you 've done !  
Oh, thank you ! thank you, lady !  
And may your little son,  
Who 's smiling in the window,  
Never come down where he  
Will have to peddle matches,  
And tramp around, like me ! ”

He kissed the woman's hand, and turned  
To go out thro' the gate,  
And, picking up his heavy load,  
Altho' the hour was late,  
He dragged himself along the road—  
This creature, wan and wee—  
And asked, at ev'ry door he stopped:  
Buy matches, please, from me ? ”

## Quatrains.

---

On Hist'ry's pages may be found  
The life-blood of a Nation, dried :  
Each tome, with heroism bound,  
Shows love and valor close allied.

---

True manhood copies womanhood  
In noble qualities of mind ;  
The light of hist'ry shows the good  
Not to the sterner sex confined.

---

The thirsty earth—her prayer to Heav'n  
regarded—  
Is glad, with voiceful gladness, not retarded  
By aught of what has been : enhanced  
thereby,  
Her joy-pores ope : deliverance is nigh."

## Athens' Defection.

---

South Nyack, the intellectual, *bon ton* residence portion of Nyack-on Hudson, voted, in 1894, through negligence, against the annual appropriation requisite to its citizens enjoying the privileges of the free library of the four Nyacks, but, subsequently, made up the necessary amount by private subscriptions.

South Nyack :

Paradigm of intellectual excellence—

Quad-Nyack's Hellenic purlieus—

Who repudiated the spirits of

Sainte Beuve, Shakespeare, Servetus, Shelley,

Bulwer, Bacon, Balzac, Bancroft,

Disraeli, Dana, Darwin, Demosthenes,

Pope, Plutarch, Poe, Paine,

Hoke Smith, Pod Dismuke, Dink Botts,

Jadam Bede, Muley Hassan, Larry Godkin,

And Col. Abe. Slupsky—

Sorra the day !

Has the buffalo returned to his wallow,

Or the maudlin owl to her wisdom—

Which?

Were the Library in her bourne,

The very cobbles of South Nyack  
Would cry out for the "free graft!"  
Such is blindness!                      A cry  
From Macedonian South Nyack :  
"Come and help us!"  
But we do n't help—  
N'ary bit!  
Put up the "squidulum," ye cerebro-fatuous,  
Who voted for light,\* to guide  
The blear-eyed Bacchanalian home,  
But not to lumine the abject psychic density  
Of non-appreciative souls,  
And in thy grasp the prize is.

Shades of Marcus Antoninus Aurelius!  
Shall South Nyack claim eminence  
As a foster-mother of *teinturiers*,  
And list not to the wail for free books?  
Hardly, Sophelia!  
Put up the price, O, ye of many stamps,  
And help Nyack to carry the banner!

---

The electric light a, propriation passed.

## A Retrospect.

---

I never see a little child

But I recall when I was young :  
When childish romp my hours beguiled,  
And Nature's God upon me smiled :  
Before the reign of passions, wild,  
Before Delilah's song was sung.

Be brave, dear one, before you feel  
The fury of Sin's venom hurled ,  
At thy pure breast, with intent, real,  
And hatred for thy spotless weal :  
Be strong, ere years of pain reveal  
The wretched, wicked, woful world !

## Romping Rhyme.

---

Oh, the bouncing and the jouncing  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme ;  
Oh, the rouncing and the flouncing  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme !  
There 's a mate for ev'ry word  
In the brain of man that 's stirr'd—  
Oft he rues it afterward,  
When the editor calls "time !"

Oh, the rolling and the bowling  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme ;  
Oh, the souling and cajoling  
Of ' the rhyme, of the rhyme !  
How the poet oft must eke  
Out a line with ancient Greek—  
Wear his hair long, like a freak—  
'T is sublime ! 't is sublime !

Oh, the cooing and the wooing  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme ;



Oh, the suing, black-and-bluing,  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme !  
How, with many a repetition,  
Rolls the rhythm on its mission—  
Doling out its sad fruition,  
All the time ! all the time !

Oh, the soulful and the doleful  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme ;  
Oh, the bowlful of “ be-joyful ”  
Oft behind the flight of rhyme !  
Wild, erratic Allen Poe  
Drew on Amontillado,  
And he reaped a toper’s woe,  
Thro’ all time ! thro’ all time !

Oh, the swishing of and fishing  
For the rhyme, for the rhyme ;  
Oh, the wishing and the squishing  
Of the rhyme, of the rhyme !

When the poet's thoughts relax,  
Spectral, stalks the Income Tax—  
And he flees from its cold facts  
T' another clime ! t' another clime !

## Summer Days Are On the Wane.

---

There are signs we can no longer pass in-  
differently by—

Signs of autumn, fast approaching, shadow-  
ing Summer's last, long sigh.

Even now, to grace the table of Thanksgiv-  
ing, gourmands gloat

At the thought that in the barn-yard fatt'n-  
ing is the poly shote.

A precursor, sure, of fall-time is the  
phœbe's mournful "tweet !"

As he reckons soon of Summer days will be  
but mem'ries, sweet.

And the fields of bristling stubble, once  
rolled high with lordly grain,

All emphasize that Summer

Days

Are

On

The

Wane.

Crickets soon their tireless grace-notes will  
surcease, ere comes the fall :  
And the “jug-o-rums,” in boggy morass,  
choke their glummy call.  
E’en the “dog-days,” low’ring sullen, frown  
glad Summer’s smiles to tears :  
And the heated moderation tells that au-  
tumn’s column nears.  
Back to haunts that through the Summer  
knew them not, a sun-burned crowd  
Troops from mountain, lake and valley,  
and where Ocean murmurs loud :  
For the days are shorter growing, and the  
shadows on the pane,  
All emphasize that Summer  
Days  
Are  
On  
The  
Wane.

With a sigh of depth, deep—mournful—  
and a flow of lachrymæ,  
Summer girls give o'er their conquests by  
the swelling, tearful sea ;  
And, discarded belt and "bloomers," with  
disgust, true, real, sincere,  
Ribbon-counters hide the shins of beaux of  
Narragansett Pier.  
Soon the leaves, tergiversating color to the  
season's tune,  
Will return to earth the verdure spring-tide  
begged of natal June.  
'Thoughts of next Spring's batch of verses,  
driving rhymesters 'most insane,  
All emphasize that Summer  
Days  
Are  
On  
The  
Wane.

## When Old Age Comes On.

---

When your life is young, and promise makes  
each thought a glad delight,  
And the world seems pure and joyous : all  
unknown is sin-hued blight :  
Ev'ry waking hour is gladness, ev'ry breath  
is fraught with song,  
And we cannot see why sorrow makes the  
lives of some all wrong ;  
All your youthful days are given up to mirth  
and romp and glee,  
And you mind not premonitions of the  
things that are to be :  
But you waken at the moment when your  
past life you must con—  
Prepare for what is coming

When

Old

Age

Comes

On.

Life may seem so full of smiles that tears  
are better when unknown :  
And the thing that time beguiles best cal-  
culated to condone  
For the day when sorrow's pinions cleaved  
the air around your head,  
And the peace of mind of yestermorn that  
morning's sun found dead.  
And you seek relief in worldly things—your  
heart fill with their joy :  
Fast forgetting not a golden moment but  
has its alloy :  
But you turn your eyes to Heaven, with its  
glories your soul don—  
Prepare for what will happen—  
When  
Old  
Age  
Comes  
On.

“ E’en Tho’ It Be a Cross.”

---

The stone church fronted on the street,  
In architecture, grand ;  
And many passed, with busy feet,  
To meet life’s great demand  
For bread and wine : nor stopped to pray  
In its inviting calm ;  
No time to look to Heav’n had they,  
Nor wish for its sweet balm.  
The golden-glinting cross a-top  
The buttresses of gray,  
Rose high o’er fact’ry, hill and shop—  
Its lesson to convey  
To souls of men, whose lust for gold  
Shut out all love for God.  
The church pile heaped its outlines, bold,  
Aloft, on sacred sod.

Without the door a hydrant stood,  
With tin cup hanging near,



And many of the brotherhood  
Of mankind halted here  
To quench the thirst, by heat begot,  
Or midnight's drunken crave,  
Then dropped the cup and quick forgot  
The benefit it gave.  
A "tramp," in rags and tatters clothed,  
By chance betook him there,  
And drank the cup he often loathed,  
For want of better fare.  
The clear, cold liquor satisfied  
The burning flame within :  
It cleared his head and quelled the tide  
Of thoughts, black, dark with sin.

And, as he turned his eyes above,  
A gleam from off the cross  
Brought back to mem'ry mother-love—  
The old life, and its loss.  
The prayer his mother murmur'd low,  
When bowed he at her knee :

“ As ’t is in Heav’n, even so  
Be it to mine and me ! ”  
Came to his mind, thro’ mists of tears,  
That blinded, as they fell :  
How fruitless, since, the sadd’ned years.  
The “ tramp,” alone, could tell.  
O’ercome, he bowed his head and cried :  
“ Oh, God ! that, ere I broke  
My mother’s heart, I, too, had died ! ”  
Then sang he, as he spoke :

“ Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee ;  
E’en tho’ it be a cross  
That raiseth me ! ”

### L'Envoi.

---

Dear reader—comrade in distress!—relief  
Is thine and mine : for here  
The finis is. I add this extra sheaf  
That parting be less drear.

If I, perchance, have struck responding  
chord  
To that which knows thy breast,  
And, in the unity of that concord,  
Pleased thee, these lines are bles't!

If aught of interest has marked my work :  
If heart-response 't has stirr'd :  
If joy, sincere, perusing, lay a-lurk  
For thee, I bless each word !





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